

SENATE BILL 445

By Lowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37
and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to student
attendance.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3009, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a) A parent, guardian, or other person who has control of a child, and who violates this part commits educational neglect. Educational neglect is a Class C misdemeanor unless the child is in poor academic standing, in which case the penalty for educational neglect involving such child is a Class B misdemeanor. As used in this subsection (a), "poor academic standing" means that the child is failing English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies or has a grade point average below 2.0.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-120(b), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(8) If the petition alleges educational neglect, then whether the child is in poor academic standing, as defined in § 49-6-3009(a).

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to petitions for educational neglect filed on or after that date.